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Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D.C., 20554

AUG 10 2000

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

In the Matter of:

:

RM-- 9963

Amendment of Sec. 73.202(b)

:

Table of FM Allotments,

FM Broadcast Stations

:

Docket No. 00-172

(McConnelsville, Ohio)

Petition of Donald Staats

Petitioner Donald Staats respectfully moves the Commission to amend the Table of FM Allocations, Sec. 73.202, by the addition of channel 279A, 103.7 MHZ., to McConnelsville, Ohio, as that community's second full time broadcast service. If this channel is allocated to McConnelsville, Ohio, Petitioner proposes to apply for a permit to construct and operate a station to serve this community.

Community

McConnelsville, population 1,804,¹ is the county seat of Morgan County, population 14,525². Morgan County lies in southeastern Ohio, about 100 kilometers east-southeast of Columbus. McConnelsville, and the adjacent village of Malta (population 802), lie on opposite banks of the Muskingum River, and are about 35 kilometers southeast of Zanesville, Ohio; 45 kilometers northwest of Marietta, Ohio.

About 18 % of the county workforce is employed in manufacturing, 20% in retail trade, 12% in construction, and 12% in county government. Major employers are Federal Mogul, Dana

¹ 1990 census figures

² 1999 census estimate

Corporation, Gould, Malta Windows, and Finley Fire Equipment. Mining, formerly of great importance to the economy, has declined over the years. Much of the land in the county is now undeveloped, or forested, having been reclaimed from strip mining. A small portion of the county is agricultural, principally beef is raised on higher ground, while corn and soybeans is raised on the river bottom lands.³ Many people commute to employment out of the county.

There is a single, consolidated school district serving most of the county, one of 25 “comprehensive” school districts in the state. There is no institution of higher education in the county, Morgan County provides support for Washington Community College in Marietta.

The county is an important tourism center, with three state parks. The Muskingum River, which bisects the county, is an attraction for boating and also for fishing. The “Muskingum River Parkway,” the canalized portion of the river between Marietta and Zanesville, allows small boats to travel the river through the use of ten, hand-operated locks dating from the early 19th century. Burr Oak State Park, and Lodge are located on the west-side of the county on Burr Oak Lake, while the Wolf Creek state wilderness area has been set aside for public fishing and hunting (primarily with primitive weapons). Morgan County is also known as a place for great turkey and deer hunting.⁴

McConnelsville is the principal retail center for the county, although Malta has a small retail district. McConnelsville has two town squares, the business district centering on the courthouse and a restored 19th century opera house, and a second square or common area surrounded by large, 19th century homes, near the public library. McConnelsville is an incorporated village under Ohio law and is governed by a village council and mayor.

³Information from the Ohio State University/Agricultural Extension Office

⁴Source: Eastern Ohio Development Alliance

Table 1
Channel 279A, McConnellsville, Ohio
39-39-00 N., 81-48-00 W.

Frequency/Channel	Station	Required	Actual	Margin
103.1/ 276	WHBR (A) Parkersburg, WV	(19 KM)	39.079 KM	+20 KM
103.3/ 277	WTCR (B) Huntington, WV	(69 KM)	146.55 KM	+77.6 KM
103.5/ 278	WRKY (B) Steubenville, OH ⁵	(113 KM)	126.71 KM	+13.7 KM
	WJZA (A) Lancaster, OH	(72 KM)	75.65 KM	+3.7 KM
103.7/ 279	WCIR (B) Beckley, WV	(178 KM)	194.26 KM	+16.3 KM
	WCKY-FM (B) Tiffin, OH	(178 KM)	206.14 KM	+28.1 KM
103.9/ 280 ⁶	WETZ-FM (A) N. Martinsville, WV	(72 KM)	79.01 KM	+7 KM
104.1/ 281	WPAY-FM (C) Portsmouth, OH	(95 KM)	146.31 KM	+51.3 KM
104.3/ 282	WELA (B) E. Liverpool, OH ⁵	(69 KM)	148.29 KM	+79.3 KM

No stations operate nearby on the IF beat frequencies of 92.9 and 93.1.

⁵ Believe call sign changed, the FCC Database does not reflect this change.

⁶ Translator W280CY operates on ch. 280 at McConnellsville. Assistance will be provided to this non-commercial translator (if the petition for channel allocation is granted) to obtain another operating channel once the freeze on major change translator applications is lifted.

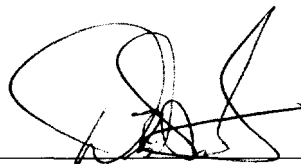
McConnelsville presently is served by one local radio station, WJAW, a Class A station operating on channel 265A. There is a translator in neighboring Malta for Belpre, Ohio, non-commercial station WCVV. There is also a weekly newspaper, the *Morgan County Herald*. Two commercial television stations in Zanesville, Ohio and Parkersburg, W.V. provide service to this area. PBS affiliate WOUB-TV, Athens, Ohio also serves Morgan County. A cable system serves McConnelsville and Malta.

Channel 279A

Although Channel 279A is short-spaced to adjacent channel station WJZA, (Lancaster, Ohio), from the reference coordinates for the village of McConnelsville, a fully spaced station could be located at a site about 5 kilometers east of downtown McConnelsville. The coordinates used for the study are 39-39-00 North, 81-48-00 West. The village of McConnelsville is, for the most part, in the Muskingum River Valley, these coordinates are for a site on the ridge above the town. Table 1 (attached), demonstrates that this site would be fully spaced to all co- and adjacent channel stations.

Conclusion

Petitioner urges the Commission to assign Ch. 279A, 103.7 MHZ., to McConnelsville, Ohio as that community's second full-time FM broadcast service.



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